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Agenda item 71

Human rights questions

Report of the Third Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Pedro **Cardoso** (Brazil)

I. Introduction

1. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled:

"Human rights questions:

"(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

"(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

"(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

"(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. An account of the Third Committee's consideration of the item is given in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in seven parts, under the symbol A/60/509 and Add.1, Add.2 (Parts I and II) and Add.3-5.

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Letter dated 13 July 2005 from the representative of Kazakhstan to the Secretary-General, transmitting the declaration adopted by the Heads of State of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization at its summit at Astana on 5 July 2005 (A/60/129)

Letter dated 6 September 2005 from the representative of the Russian Federation to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement by the Heads of State of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations (A/60/336)

Note verbale dated 27 September 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Togo to the Secretary-General (A/60/392)

Letter dated 30 September 2005 from the representative of Cuba to the Secretary-General (A/60/408-S/2005/626)

Letter dated 17 October 2005 from the representative of Yemen to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 23 September 2005 (A/60/440-S/2005/658 and Corr.2)

Item 71 (a)
Implementation of human rights instruments

Report of the Human Rights Committee in its eighty-second to eighty-fourth sessions[1]

Report of the Committee against Torture on its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions[2]

Report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its second session[3]

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/60/215)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/60/220)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/60/273)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/60/284)

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/60/40).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 44* (A/60/44).

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 48* (A/60/48).

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (A/60/325)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their seventeenth meeting (A/60/278)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/60/316)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies: analysis of the membership of the human rights treaty bodies since 1970 (A/60/351 and Corr.1)

Item 71 (b)
Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/60/134)

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants (A/60/272)

Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/60/286)

Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/60/299)

Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/60/301 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/60/305)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (A/60/326)

Report of the Secretary-General on effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/60/333)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (A/60/353)

Report of the Secretary-General on protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/60/374)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization (A/60/431)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities on its sixth session (A/60/266)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the independence of judges and lawyers (A/60/321)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons (A/60/338 and Corr.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders (A/60/339 and Corr.1)

Note by the Secretary-General regarding the report on human rights and cultural diversity (A/60/340)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (A/60/348)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to food (A/60/350)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants (A/60/357)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of human rights (A/60/384)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of religion or belief (A/60/399)

Note verbale dated 27 September 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Togo to the Secretary-General (A/60/392)

Letter dated 25 October 2005 from the representative of Belarus to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/60/3)

Letter dated 28 October 2005 from the representative of Armenia to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/60/5)

Letter dated 7 November 2005 from the representative of Uzbekistan to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/60/8)

Letter dated 8 November 2005 from the representative of Uzbekistan to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/60/9)

Item 71 (c)
Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Turkmenistan (A/60/367)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/60/422 and Corr.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/60/221)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967 (A/60/271)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/60/306)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on assistance to Sierra Leone in the field of human rights (A/60/349)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi (A/60/354)

Note by the Secretary-General regarding the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (A/60/356)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation and the activities of her Office, including technical cooperation, in Nepal (A/60/359)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/60/370)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/60/395)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the issue of Palestinian pregnant women giving birth at Israeli checkpoints (A/60/324)

Letter dated 7 November 2005 from the Secretary-General to the representative of Myanmar (A/60/422/Add.1)

Letter dated 24 October 2005 from the representative of Myanmar to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/60/2)

Letter dated 2 November 2005 from the representative of Myanmar to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/60/6)

Letter dated 2 November 2005 from the representative of Israel addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/60/7)

Letter dated 10 November 2005 from the representative of Turkmenistan to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/60/10)

Item 71 (d)
Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

No documents were submitted under this sub-item.

Item 71 (e)
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and on the achievements of the technical assistance in the field of human rights (A/60/343)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[4]

II. Consideration of a draft decision proposed by the Chairman

4. At its 48th meeting, on 23 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of a number of documents considered in connection with the question of human rights (see para. 5).

[4] Ibid., *Supplement No. 36* (A/60/36).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

5. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of human rights

The General Assembly takes note of the following reports under the item entitled "Human rights questions":

Under sub-item (a):

(a) Report of the Human Rights Committee on its eighty-second to eighty-fourth sessions;[1]

(b) Report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its second session;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;[3]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;[4]

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;[5]

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;[6]

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses;[7]

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their seventeenth meeting;[8]

(i) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies: analysis of the membership of the human rights treaty bodies since 1970.[9]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/60/40).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 48* (A/60/48).
[3] A/60/215.
[4] A/60/220.
[5] A/60/273.
[6] A/60/284.
[7] A/60/325.
[8] A/60/278.
[9] A/60/351 and Corr.1.

Under sub-item (b):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity;[10]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development;[11]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures;[12]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism;[13]

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders;[14]

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;[15]

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of human rights;[16]

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of religion or belief;[17]

Under sub-item (c):

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar;[18]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967;[19]

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[10] A/60/134.
[11] A/60/286.
[12] A/60/305.
[13] A/60/326.
[14] A/60/339 and Corr.1.
[15] A/60/348.
[16] A/60/384.
[17] A/60/399.
[18] A/60/221.
[19] A/60/271.

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on assistance to Sierra Leone in the field of human rights;[20]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi;[21]

(e) Note by the Secretary-General regarding the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Sudan;[22]

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation and the activities of her Office, including technical cooperation, in Nepal;[23]

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;[24]

(h) Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the issue of Palestinian pregnant women giving birth at Israeli checkpoints.[25]

Under sub-item (c):

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[26]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and on the achievements of the technical assistance in the field of human rights.[27]

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[20] A/60/349
[21] A/60/354
[22] A/60/356
[23] A/60/359
[24] A/60/370
[25] A/60/324
[26] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/60/53).
[27] A/60/343